

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-04 ADP-00 AID-07 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-05 EPA-01 INR-09 IO-03 L-03 NSF-04

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SCI FOR SALMON

PASS TO COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

E. O. 11652: N / A

TAGS: OCON SENV JA US

SUBJ: US/ JAPAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
POLLUTION

REF STATE 048253

SUMMARY: EA DIRGEN TAKEO MIKI WELCOMES SUBJECT CONFERENCE PROVIDING IT HELD BEFORE OR AFTER ECONCOM. ALSO CONCURS WITH SUGGESTED FORMAT AS WELL AS DESIRABILITY HOLDING WORKING LEVEL AUTUMN MEETING. HOWEVER, MIKI IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SIGNING US/ JAPAN ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT AT ECONCOM, SINCE HE NOT A PARTICIPANT. LONG STANDING INTERMINISTERIAL ROADBLOCKS WHICH HAVE RESTRAINED EA FROM EMERGING INTO JAPANESE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP NOW HAVE BEEN EXACERBATED BY LDP RIVALRIES PITTING FACTION LEADER MIKI AGAINST OTHER STRONG FACTIONAL LEADERS, ESPECIALLY MITI' S NAKASONE, FOR POLITICAL ADVANTAGES ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP WOULD BRING. END SUMMARY.

1. EA DIRGEN MIKI WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
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WITH CHAIRMAN TRAIN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY. HOWEVER, SINCE HE NOT ECONCOM PARTICIPANT, HE PREFERS MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE BE HELD INDEPENDENTLY OF ECONCOM, EITHER JUST BEFORE OR AFTER IT. POST REQUESTS CHAIRMAN TRAIN' S SUGGESTION ON MOST DESIRABLE DATES .

2. JAPANESE SIDE UNDERSTANDS CONFERENCE FORMAT WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:
(A) NO PRECEDING WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS; (B) NO EXTENSIVE WORKING DOCUMENTS WILL BE PREPARED; (C) ONLY BARE MINIMUM OF STAFF WILL PARTICIPATE; AND (D) AGENDA WILL BE DEVOTED TO POLICY DISCUSSIONS FOR GUIDANCE OF DIRECT WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CONCERNED US AND JAPANESE AGENCIES.

3. EA REQUESTS US SUGGESTIONS FOR AGENDA TOPICS ASAP. EA ALSO DESIRES WORKING LEVEL MEETING AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL PARA 4 AS FOLLOW- UP TO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

4. FYI: EMBASSY AWARE THAT DEPARTMENT AND CEQ HOPE TO HAVE US/ JAPAN ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT READY FOR SIGNATURE DURING ECONCOM.
HOWEVER, DISCUSSIONS WITH EA OFFICIALS DISCLOSE THIS PATH REPLETE WITH FORMIDABLE ROADBLOCKS, AS FOLLOWS:

A) DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT READIED FOR 1972 HONOLULU MEETING OF PRESIDENT NIXON AND PRIMIN TANAKA WAS SIDETRACKED BECAUSE JAPANESE BUREAUCRACY OPPOSED NAMING EA DIRGEN AS RESPONSIBLE JAPANESE OFFICIAL FOR IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO FONMINOFFS THIS OPPOSIGION NOW EVEN STRONGER BECAUSE MINISTER MIKI IS EA DIRGEN. ALTHOUGH FONMIN INFORMALLY FAVORABLE TO NEW US DRAFT LANGUAGE SUGGESTING ADMINISTRATION BY JOINT COMMITTEE, THEY PREFER COUNTRY COORDINATOR BE AT SUBMINISTERIAL LEVEL TO CIRCUMVENT BUREAUCRATIC RIVALRY. ALTHOUGH THIS PROBLEM DIFFICULT ENOUGH, MINISTER MIKI' S APPEARANCE ON SCENE BRINGS NEW COMPLEXITIES OF LDP FACTIONAL RIVALRIES WHICH ARE EVEN LESS AMENABLE TO SOLUTION.

B) DIRGEN MIKI ANTICIPATING IMPORTANT RESULTS FORTHCOMING ENVIRONMENT TALKS AS HE ANXIOUS TO PROPELL EA INTO MORE PRIMINENT POSITION ON ENVIRONMENTAL FRONT RELATIVE OTHER CONCERNED MINISTRIES. HE ALSO AWARE POLITICAL MILEAGE TO BE GAINED FROM EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE, ESPECIALLY IF CONFERENCE DISTINCTLY SEPARATED FROM ECONCOM. IN VIEW MEDIA PREOCCUPATION WITH TRADE MATTERS THAT PERIOD, MIKI STRONGLY DESIRES ENVIRONMENTAL MEET PRODUCE HIGHLY VISIBLE RESULTS TO AVOID BEING OVERSHADOWED AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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C) EA STRONGLY FAVORED CONVLUSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT AT HONOLULU MEETING, SINCE IT WOULD CONFER JAPANESE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP ON EA. WITH DIRGEN MIKI AT EA HELM, AGENCY IS EVEN MORE ANXIOUS TO RETAIN ORIGINAL ARTICLE FOUR (4) LANGUAGE, AND TO CONCLUDE SIGNATURE POSSIBLY AT FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, BUT NOT RPT NOT AT ECONCOM WHERE MIKI NOT PARTICIPATING. IN CONFIDENCE, EA OFFICIAL STATED DIRGEN MIKI SEES REAL POLITICAL FACTIONAL ADVANTAGE SHOULD HE ACQUIRE DE FACTO JAPANESE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP VIA THIS US- JAPAN AGREEMENT. SAME OFFICIAL ALSO INDICATED EA/ FONMIN IMPASSE ON JAPANESE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP STEMMED FROM THIS PROBLEM AS FONMIN OHIRA, ALSO IMPORTANT LDP FACTIONAL LEADER, WOULD HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO HAND HIS RIVAL MIKI ANY POLITICAL ADVANTAGE. THUS FONMIN CREATED IDEA SUBMINISTERIAL COORDINATOR TO AVOID BOTH BUREAUCRATIC AND FACTIONAL DISPUTES. EA' S POTENTIAL EMERGENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP ROLE ALSO HEAVILY INHIBITED BY MORESAOWERFUL BUREAUCRATIC RIVAL MITI. SINCE MITI MINISTER NAKASONE ALSO IMPORTANT LDP FACTION LEADER, HE CAN BE COUNTED ON TO RESTRAIN MIKI' S POLITICAL ROLE AS WELL. END FYI.

5. FOREGOING BACKGROUND INFORMATION POINTS UP ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS CONFRONTING CONCLUSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT AND HOLDING OF MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AS WE HAVE PROPOSED. SINCE THESE LIKELY TO TAKE TIME TO RESOLVE, IT IMPORTANT WE BE ABLE PRESENT DRAFT AGREEMENT SOONEST. INGERSOLL

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